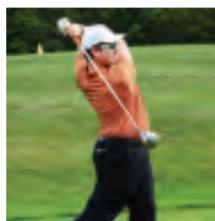




RESTAURANTS  
Station Taproom raising the bar on grub  
Living+Food » B1



LOCAL BUSINESS  
Pottstown company packages papal coin  
Business » C1



H.S. GOLF  
Spring-Ford, Perk Valley seniors drive competition  
Sports » D1

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TWITTER.COM/MERCURYX

TODAY'S WEATHER High:78 Low:49 » PAGE A8

# THE MERCURY

Wednesday, September 23, 2015 \$1.00 FACEBOOK.COM/POTTSTOWNMERCURY TWITTER.COM/MERCURYX

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## The Pope In Philly POPE FRANCIS 2015

# MASS APPEAL

# Philly 'ready to go'

### World Meeting of Families kicks off the celebration

By Kathleen E. Carey  
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@dtbusiness on Twitter

PHILADELPHIA » With bell choirs, singing students and roars of applause, the Eighth World Meeting of Families opened Tuesday at the Philadelphia Convention Center, a four-day conference preceding Pope Francis' visit this weekend. "What happens here this week is a celebration not about the past but of the future," Archbishop Charles Chaput said. "The lesson is simply, 'God remakes the world.' For the people and families who love him, this week will have the grace, the time when God moves among us. May God pour his courage, his joy, his peace in all of your hearts. Let us begin."

In a more colloquially way, while presenting the Pope with a custom-made Breezer bicycle and a Lenox dish, Philadelphia Mayor Mi-

READY » PAGE 4



PHOTO BY GEOFF PATTON — DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA

Crews were hard at work Tuesday preparing the custom stage on Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia for this weekend's visit by Pope Francis. See story and additional photos on A4-A5.

### THE POPE IN PHILLY

The Mercury and its sister papers in Digital First Media have a team of 15 reporters and editors covering the World Meeting of Families and Pope Francis' visit. Throughout this week, we will be providing up-to-the-minute coverage of all the local stories that are part of this momentous event. Follow us live at pottsmmerc.com and join the conversation on Twitter using #PopeDFM.

### POTTSTOWN SCHOOLS

## Zahora helms last board meeting

### Presides over final session from Boston via her computer

By Evan Brandt  
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@PottstownNews on Twitter

POTTSTOWN » You might say that Pottstown School Board President Judyth Zahora closed out the last meeting of her 20-year school board career as a talking head.

Zahora, who has moved to Boston to take another job, announced her resignation last month and it becomes official at the end of the month.

But Monday was her last school board meeting and she presided over it from Boston, her face appearing on a computer screen

thanks to the Internet.

For the past few months, as she travels between Boston and Pottstown, Zahora has often participated in school board meetings via speaker phone, but for her last two, she had a cyber-presence as well as an audio one.

Zahora has been a presence, she said when she announced her pending resignation, since her triplet sons first entered Pottstown schools.

She endured, guided and argued hours upon hours of discussion about construction projects at every single Pottstown school building — a topic which has dominated the discussion, politics and policies of the district for more than a decade.

As she has said several times in the last six months, "I'm so pleased we can finally get back to

ZAHORA » PAGE 5



EVAN BRANDT — THE MERCURY

Outgoing Pottstown School Board President Judyth Zahora ran her last meeting from inside a computer screen.

### POTTSTOWN

## Pope's visit grounds planes for Airport Day

By Evan Brandt  
ebrandt@pottsmmerc.com  
@PottstownNews on Twitter

POTTSTOWN » One might expect to see airplanes in the air during the annual Municipal Airport Day this Saturday, but that will not be the case.

And you can thank Pope Francis for that. Organizers of Saturday's affair announced Tuesday that due to a No Fly Zone — known as a "Temporary Flight Restriction" — being imposed by the Federal Aviation Administration in a 30-mile zone around Philadelphia, planes will be grounded during the annual event.

Pottstown Municipal Airport is right at the edge of that zone.

AIRPORT » PAGE 4

### FOOD

#### Desserts can be diet friendly and delicious

Mini strawberry popovers are so tiny and airy that you can have a couple of them for well under 100 calories. PAGE B1



### NEWS

#### Montco commissioners pledge to help vets

Officials vow to help place homeless veterans into stable homes by signing a pledge "to end veteran homelessness." PAGE A2

### BUSINESS

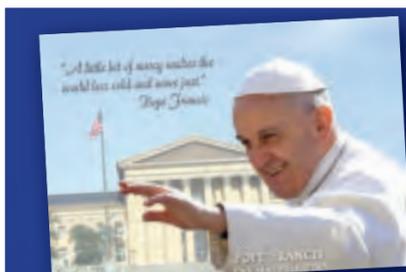
#### CEO says he's 'endlessly sorry' for test scandal

Volkswagen will set aside an initial \$7.3B to cover fallout from its admitted emissions scandal. PAGE C1

### PAPAL VISIT

#### Mercury is part of live team coverage

A team of 15 reporters and editors are covering the World Meeting of Families and Pope Francis' visit. Follow us live at pottsmmerc.com



## Coming Sunday September 27th a special keepsake photo

Celebrating the Pope's visit to Philadelphia